Appl. No. 09/196,013 Amdt. Dated May 19, 2004 Reply to Office Action of November 19, 2003 Attorney Docket No. 81784.0202 Customer No. 26021

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

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Norio KOMA

MAY 2 7 2004

Serial No.: 09/196,013 Confirmation No.: 8659

Technology Center 2600

Filed:

November 19, 1998

For:

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RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is being filed in conjunction with an RCE (Request for Continued Examination) for the above-identified application, and is in response to the Final Office Action of November 19, 2003.

A listing of the Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

Art Unit: 2674

Examiner: F. N. Nguyen

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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May 19, 2004 Date of Deposit

Jahn P. Scheracher, Reg. No. 23,009

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Date